

RURAL LIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY.

We recently read an excellent editorial written by John B. Stoll, of South Bend, Indiana, editor of the Editorial, a journal "published for the dissemination of the best editorial thought of the day." The topic was "Country Mainstay of Republic." Mr. Stoll emphasized the fact that Thomas Jefferson had pointed to the springing up of large cities in this country as one of the great dangers that would in time confront the nation.

Mr. Stoll then refers in an interesting way to a recent lecture by Dr. Oscar E. Kelley, of Terre Haute, Indiana, who spoke on "The Contribution of Rural Life to the Welfare of the Nation." He quoted Dr. Kelley as saying, "That true democracy exists only in the country districts, and that the cities are the centers of a life that is opposed to a government of equal privileges as planned by the founders of the republic." He further quoted Dr. Kelley as saying "that the rural districts make contributions to the welfare of the nation in economic and esthetic ways, and that the country not only cherishes and protects the ideals of the nation, but that it gives the country practically all of its leaders in every line of activity and endeavor."

There are many, doubtless, who question the statement of Dr. Kelley, saying that the "country gives practically all the leaders," etc., but if these people will take the pains to investigate they will find his words to be true.

Not long since while holding our membership in a city church we made the remark that if the matter were investigated it would be found that practically all the officers and leading members of the church were country born. The suggestion was first laughed at, but the first few queries in regard to the place where each of these leaders were born and reared developed the truthfulness of the statement. We now go further and say that if this same test is made in any of your large city churches it will be found that only in the rarest instances will there be an exception to the rule.

Listen again to these burning words of Dr. Kelley:

"Probably the most important contribution of the country to the life of the nation is that of idealism. The ruralist is a true idealist. The home and the fireside and the neighborliness of the country are the things that foster and develop idealism."

"If democracy ever becomes a reality in the life of the nation it will be through the power and the influence of the rural people. We can not expect much from the cities in our struggle for real and lasting freedom from oppression. Cities are not the places where democracy thrives. Political machines are put together in the cities and boss rule prevails. Social distinctions have been raised and many other barriers to democracy exist. The great corporate institutions and the large industrial and commercial organizations are not democratic, but despotic, and, under the present system, the masses who contribute in the greatest measure to the success of the institutions have absolutely no voice in their management."

Mr. Stoll then proceeds to ask if the evil so graphically depicted by Dr. Kelley may be remedied. He says of the power of centralized population: "He shows how the city of New York is made a practical illustration of this, in that while this great city now pays 70 per cent. of the state taxes, and has more than 52 per cent. of the population, yet the city will have only 45 per cent. of the state representation in the legislature, the constitution wisely providing that the city at no time should be accorded a majority of the membership of the legislature."

Mr. Stoll then concludes this splendid article by saying: "If this republic is to live on and on ways will have to be found and means devised to curtail the power of cities that count their inhabitants by the millions. The growth of these centers of population may not be preventable, but their power in the state may be curbed if attended to in time. Right minded residents of big cities, accustomed to solid thinking and sound reasoning, recognize the advisability, desirability and necessity of such curbing as readily as do the sound and patriotic thinkers of the rural regions."

"The surest method for checking the overgrowth of cities is to make rural life more attractive, to improve conditions by means of better housing and cheaper living, to make industrial pursuits in the country more profitable than is possible in crowded cities, and by establishing safety to life and property without imposing burdensome taxation."

THE ONLY REDEMPTION OF MEXICO.

War with Mexico may be averted, and keeping out of war is a thing greatly to be desired, but if the matter be considered from the humanitarian standpoint, we believe with Daniel Dillon, a special correspondent of the Chicago Examiner, that if Mexico is ever to be saved it must be by United States intervention. Mr. Dillon speaks as follows in regard to Mexican conditions:

"The de facto government has not brains, it has not money, and the support of the people, despite the frantic efforts of Carranza to secure it, can not be claimed by the 'First Chief.' No more than in the United States, can a group of men stand alone in Mexico, and conditions have finally reached such a state that no faction can stand with the support of the Mexican people, for they refuse to rally to any standard after such fiascos as Madera, Huerta and Carranza. The active support of the United States is necessary to the future life of the nation as a nation, and nothing short of this, which means intervention, will suffice."

"The military controls the nation by force, and not even the rights of their own citizens are countenanced. With the power of control this class, in which hatred for Americans is bred deeply with the fear of interference in their profitable and illegal control, subjects American citizens to indignities that are unspeakable."

"In Mexico City American men have feared to be out of doors at night or to eat in public restaurants. When they have the necessity to do so drunken constitutionalist officers delight in hurling insulting epithets at them. To resent brings jail terms, while officials tell Special Agent Lynn P. Rodgers that if American citizens persist in remaining after being ordered out by their government, they must take the consequences."

"Every jail in Mexico is swarming with American prisoners, who have been imprisoned because they are Americans. I was held in jail for eighteen days for having filed a cable message which was stopped by the censor. When released I was sent to Vera Cruz and ordered home, and here I am."

"Harry A. Dunn, superintendent of the Mexican Light and Power Company plant at Nexaca, had been in jail fifty-five days when I left. He is being held charged with having furnished dynamite to the enemies of the government. The bandits got the dynamite, but they got it under the protection afforded by Carranza, who allows them to pillage as they will."

"Carranza men are being urged to the belief that they can invade the United States, loot the border towns and retire to security behind the Rio Grande by Germans who are daily joining the Carranza army. Twenty Germans recently arrived from the states and were given high positions in the constitutionalist army. One has been placed in command of all the coast defenses, and his first move at Vera Cruz was to dismantle the Mexican navy in the harbor and plant the guns in the hills surrounding the city."

"Obregon claims he has 250,000 men under arms, and that San Antonio will be in his hands within two weeks after hostilities, according to rumors which are being circulated throughout the Mexican republic, and countenanced by government officials, and it is openly boasted that Japan will give financial aid and munitions in case of war."

"The incidents at Parral and Carrizal have been heralded throughout the land as 'glorious Mexican victories.' Peons are invited to insult Americans and are promised protection by Carranza officers. Carranza is fostering the war spirit because he sees a possibility of uniting the country around him, and through the timorousness of the American policy achieve in their eyes great power which will attract their support just as Diaz gathered his power nearly a half century ago."

"Carranza's one move is being made with one object—to keep in power his tottering government that owes its existence solely to the United States. This government is recognized only beyond the borders of the land it is supposed to govern, and war is the 'First Chief's' last play, his trump card, to bring popular support to his aid."

DEMOCRACY STILL TRIUMPHANT

We have very little patience with the pessimistic spirit, even though at times there are amny things to make us sad, especially those things that show a tendency towards a departure from our earliest ideals of the democratic principles for which our forefathers bled and died. The Tampa Times had an editorial in last Saturday's issue, "Democracy on Wheels," which contains a spirit of optimism, an optimism founded on and warranted by real conditions, that we feel sure will be helpful to all who will give it a careful and thoughtful reading. The Times says:

"We are often assured by long hair

ed men and short haired women—that is to say, by the professional reformer or alarmist class—that the ideals on which this nation was founded are gone, and that the United States is becoming not a democracy, but a land of caste and snobbery worse than that of the older monarchies. Very likely we have advanced somewhat beyond the native simplicity and equality of colonial days. Man is a creature of many inventions, especially the American man. Life must forever grow more complex. But, looking out over the streets of a great city, and observing the people passing to and fro, we can not believe this country is at heart anything but an essential democracy—a land, and almost the only land, in which men are not only theoretically created equal, but actually can and do make themselves equal, and in which all things tend towards equality."

"Most of us remember the unique status of the automobile—we called it a 'horseless carriage' then—when it first came into use. It was then the badge of aristocracy, and we were assured it always would be so. The line of demarcation between nobility and mere canaille would be the possession of a motor car. Yet as a matter of fact there is even more democracy today on wheels than on foot."

"Practically anyone may own and drive an automobile. On Franklin street one sees the proudest queens of society, in luxurious eight and twelve cylinder machines, brushing wheels with a soiled and shabby youth proudly piloting his second-hand, three-year-old flivver. In between are cars of every imaginable kind, price, age and efficiency. The pleasure vehicle, the jitney, and the commercial truck, flow along side by side. Each yields the same rights to others; all obey the same laws and the mandates of the traffic officer; whatever the social status of the drivers, a wheel they are all democratic equals. And in a way there is a sort of bond among motorists that makes any of them, rich or poor, ever ready to stop and lend a hand to any other who may be stalled on a lonely road. At the garage, as they roll up for gasoline and air, they take their turn as they come. The man from the borders of Ybor and the resident of Hyde Park can find common topics of interest and conversation in tires, spark plugs, carburetors and batteries."

"In reality, what was expected to be a maker of caste has proven a leveler of barriers. But it has been so only in this country, and from that it may be concluded that the essential American spirit of democracy is still triumphant, and always will be. We see no cause for worry over possible degeneracy of our greatest traditional ideal."

PARKER NOT A CANDIDATE.

New Orleans, July 18.—"There is not a chance on earth of my accepting any nomination at the hands of the prohibition party," John M. Parker stated last night.

"I emphatically announce," Mr. Parker continued, "that I am not a candidate for any office."

"My statement just given answers the telegram received from Messrs. Patten and Farris," concluded Mr. Parker.

"Mr. Hinshaw either must have been misquoted or have mistaken my attitude and expressed sentiments relative to prohibition," Mr. Parker said in commenting on dispatches from St. Paul yesterday, quoting Virgil C. Hinshaw as saying Mr. Parker "wrote him repeatedly saying he wanted to become a member of a party standing for national prohibition."

"I did state to Mr. Hinshaw verbally," Mr. Parker said, "that national prohibition was the only way in which prohibition could be accomplished, but I also stated that I stood for local option, and emphatically stated to him that under no circumstances would I be a candidate on the prohibition ticket."

A LESSON FROM MOBILIZATION.

A proposal that an army quartermaster depot be established in each congressional district to hasten the equipment of the National Guard in an emergency has grown from the experience acquired by mobilization. It is now necessary to send supplies for the men in all parts of the United States from Philadelphia, St. Louis, or San Francisco. The delay caused in supplying the National Guard has been due to this fact, and not to a shortage in equipment.

Good business methods must be employed in the management of the governments' affairs, both in war and peace, to secure the greatest results. Imagine a private business house employing an army of workmen to whom they are required to furnish supplies to hundreds of thousands of men on short notice, attempting to do this from three depots as far removed from the places of distribution as are Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Francisco. No sane one would do this,

yet this is what the government has attempted to do. It would not be feasible to do this with any sort of supplies, and for clothes even less so. It is a well known fact that the efficiency of the infantry in service depends on no one thing more than on the fit of the shoes. Give a regiment of men shoes that are not comfortable, and their efficiency is thereby greatly decreased.

By the establishment of depots in each congressional district or at places near enough to supply companies on a day's notice, the National Guard could be mobilized at least a week or ten days earlier than under the present system.

DuPONT AND GOOD ROADS.

West Virginia, once known as the state without a modern road, is fast coming to the front in securing the types of highways. The last few years has seen bond issues amounting into millions for building better roads in that state.

When Coleman DuPont first told the farmers of the country that they were spending about 23 cents for every mile they hauled a ton over poor roads, and that this cost would be reduced to 8 cents a mile on good roads, they were astounded and slow to believe it. But DuPont proved it to them. He put it up to them as a business proposition. And that one statement of his has done more than anything else to give impetus to the good roads movement.

DuPont has been everything from a day laborer in the coal mines to head of one of the greatest industrial corporations in the world. He has been a banker, a farmer, a mine operator and a builder of railroads, and has been singularly successful in everything he has undertaken. It has been said that if he were president of the United States he would save the country three hundred millions of dollars through economic business methods. And he believes that the federal government should extend every possible aid in the building of good local and national highways.—Southern Good Roads Journal.

WHY IS IT, ANYHOW?

Why is it that those people living where the main highways have to be built are so inclined to act hogish? They are always given the best roads constructed by the counties, yet they do more kicking and ask more damage than anybody else. Their land is enhanced in value more than that of the people in outlying districts, who usually welcome a good road, even though it cost not half that spent on a main highway. Road engineers tell us, though, that such is the condition that exists. The main highways really put the people who live upon them in the suburbs of the city, yet these same folks can not be satisfied in many instances. They take it for granted that the road must come their way, so they feel they are privileged to gouge all they can out of the people's money, and give all the trouble they can to the people's servants, the road authorities. There ought to be some way of effectually putting a ring in the noses of such people.—Southern Good Roads Journal.

SOME MORE DEPOSITORY LAW.

Section 2 of the law creating banks of the county depositories after January 1st, next, reads as follows: "Sec. 2. Any bank, national or state, authorized to do business in this state, that will pay two per cent. per annum on daily balances of county funds, and four per cent. per annum on balances of county funds deposited for a period of three months or longer, and give, at his own expense, a surety bond issued by some surety company authorized to do business in this state, or make satisfactory deposit TO THE CREDIT OF THE COUNTY, sufficient federal, state, county or municipal bonds for the protection of said deposits, is hereby created a county depository, and authorized and entitled to receive public funds in the manner and method as hereinafter provided in this act."

In other words, the bank is created the depository for the county, and as security for the deposits may "deposit to the credit of the county" certain classes of bonds, etc.—yes, deposit in the depository to the credit of, etc. Very much like the child who guilelessly asked a financier for a loan, and when asked who would go security off the loan, the child remarked, "I will, of course." The depository holding the security of the depository.

Anybody but a banker would have made that law read "DEPOSIT WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND WITH THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY," bonds, etc.

We have no criticism for banks or bankers (except the author of this law), but this law spreads the medicine on too thick. It don't look very well on paper, and in actual practice may prove much worse. Like the Bryan primary law, it is badly in need of revision, if not annihilation.

THAT OLD SWEETHEART.

"Seated one day at the organ, I struck a chord sublime," and as the angelic tones from the golden-throated pipes reverberated through space, sublime pictures illumined the vision, and our soul was transported. As a tired traveler on the desert views the cooling shade and the sparkling water, so the many oases in our life presented themselves to our mind's eye, and we reveled in the luxury of an unforgetten past. "The old swimming hole," the "meadow fresh with hay," and "that old sweetheart of mine"—ah, the beautiful "Minnehaha, laughing water," the neighborhood frolics, the young people's banquets, where Shakespeare and Demosthenes were alike quoted with equal recklessness, and with little thought of credit, all passed in review. I walked with that old sweetheart across the meadow, where the young lambs gambled, admiring the grace of her every movement, her words the most entrancing music, until, reaching the cool seclusion of a shady nook, I took my place at her feet, and had just launched upon the "old, old story," when I was awakened by the voice of that "old sweetheart" in "pardon, come to dinner."

FLETCHER COMPLIMENTED.

Senator Fletcher, who has been the leader in the rural credits investigation and legislation since the movement first began in this country, has received recognition from the president for the valuable services he has rendered. President Wilson has asked Mr. Fletcher to be present today, when he will affix his signature to the bill which makes it a law.

No person deserves more credit than does Senator Fletcher for the success of this measure. He has given the question much study, the result of which is found in the measure itself, and it is due more to his untiring efforts than those of any one man that the homage of the measure in its complete form has been assured. The measure will perhaps mean more to the development of the rural sections of the country than anything ever done in the way of legislation.

SCHOOL AUTHORITIES PROGRESSIVE.

Notwithstanding the rapid development of DeSoto county in all lines, the school authorities are still in the vanguard of progress. The Board of Education is in session for today, and possibly tomorrow, to let contracts for one new brick building and several frame buildings, provisions for which have previously been made. Nor is the erection of buildings all that has claimed their attention. The selection of competent instructors, the weeding out of any who may have been unsatisfactory, and the preparation of a syllabus to insure uniformity in school work, has kept these officials busy. DeSoto county's school development in the past three years has been marvelous.

Another amendment to the election laws should be the abolition of the "campaign book," a feature of the Bryan act which virtually compels all candidates to contribute to a form of advertisement which is of practically no value to them.

The book issued in the recent campaign was a joke, typographically, and yet candidates were required to pay \$100 a page for space therein. Each candidate for a state office was afraid to remain out of the book, feeling that his opponents would be in it and that the omission of his picture might operate to his disadvantage. For this \$100 the candidates got a poorly printed out, a few lines of reading matter, printed on the cheapest paper and thrown together without regard to appearance or permanence.

This is an imposition on the candidates, who could use this money to much greater advantage in legitimate advertising.

In trimming off the faulty and foolish branches of the primary laws, don't overlook the campaign book.—Tampa Tribune.

In other words, it was a species of graft—that book. If we were to turn out such a job here in Arcadia we would not only be unable to make delivery of the work, but would suffer a severe set-back in future business.

LEGAL ADVERTISING.

Notice. In the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, in and for DeSoto County, in Chancery.

State Bank of Bowling Green, a Corporation, Complainant, vs. John T. Reagan, Mary E. Reagan, and Alice A. B. Cameron, her husband, Alice Reagan, Annie Reagan, Grace F. Reagan, Edgar J. Reagan, William H. Reagan and Helen Reagan, Defendants. Bill to Foreclose Mortgage.

To the Defendants herein, John T. Reagan, her husband, Alice Reagan, Annie Reagan, Grace F. Reagan, Edgar J. Reagan, William H. Reagan and Helen Reagan, and each of you: You are hereby notified that there has been a Bill of Complaint filed by the State Bank of Bowling Green, complainant in this case, against you and each of you, wherein foreclosure of a certain mortgage is prayed.

This is therefore to command you, and each of you, to be and appear before this court, at the court house in the City of Arcadia, in DeSoto County, Florida, on the 4th day of September, A. D. 1916, and appear to answer the Complaint and answer complaint in the matters and things therein complained of.

It is further ordered that this Notice, or Order, be published in the DeSoto County News, a newspaper published in DeSoto County, Florida, for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to the return day hereof.

Done and ordered on this, the 15th day of July, A. D. 1916.

(Seal) A. L. LUTHER, Clerk Circuit Court DeSoto County, Florida.

Whereas, A petition has been filed before the County Board of Public Instruction, by the residents of Charlotte Harbor Special Tax School District No. 34, petitioning said Board of Public Instruction to call an election of the qualified electors of said Special Tax School District for the purpose of deciding whether the said School District shall issue bonds in the sum of Three Thousand (\$3,000) Dollars, and for the purpose of completing the school building at Charlotte Harbor, furnishing and equipping same, and for the purpose of further improving the school ground at Charlotte Harbor, and other purposes strictly incident and pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of a school at Charlotte Harbor, and we respectfully submit that the interest to be paid on said bonds be six (6) per cent. per annum, and that they mature in twenty (20) years.

Said bonds shall be issued for the purpose of completing the school building at Charlotte Harbor, furnishing and equipping same, and for the purpose of further improving the school ground at Charlotte Harbor, and other purposes strictly incident and pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of a school at Charlotte Harbor, and we respectfully submit that the interest to be paid on said bonds be six (6) per cent. per annum, and that they mature in twenty (20) years.

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WANTED!

Contractor with two teams to haul logs. We can furnish log carts if necessary.

KING LUMBER & MANUFACTURING CO.

Apply E. B. Willcox, Supt. of Woods INOCATEE, FLA.

WANTED—You to stay well, or get well if sick. My booklet, "Laws of Health," will do the job, if applied to your life. The well need it to stay well; the sick need it to get well. Send me 50c currency for booklet and begin laying the foundation of success and happiness. G. W. Harp, Wauchula, Fla. 7-18 d&w c o w 4tp.

FOR SALE—Saw mill located in Bermond township. Address Sidney Viers, P. O. Box 177, St. Cloud, Fla. 7-23tp